



Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Investigates Cruelty to Animal Complaint

Franklin, WI – On July 9th, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office employees received a complaint that a Hunger Task Force employee drowned or attempted to drown a cat at the House of Correction Fish Hatchery. Detectives interviewed several inmate workers who said they observed the Hunger Task Force employee (brother of the Hunger Task Force's Executive Director) commit the act.

An inmate told detectives that the suspect asked another inmate to bring him the cat. According to the inmate, the following occurred: The suspect placed the cat inside a five-gallon bucket and placed a metal trash can lid over the opening. The suspect then approached the pond and placed the bucket inside a large tube that leads to the water. He then used a long fishing net pole to hold the bucket underwater in an attempt to drown the cat.

The inmate stated that they were unable to find the cat after the incident. It appeared that everyone involved believed that the cat had drowned and sank to the bottom of the pond. A second inmate relayed the same account as provided by the first witness. The second inmate worker further stated that he could see the cat attempting to escape out of the bucket throughout this incident.

A correctional officer arrived at the pond at the end of the incident. He states that he saw the suspect using a long fishing net pole to hold a bucket underwater in the pond. The corrections officer says he heard the suspect say, "I am killing a cat." The pond was searched with negative results. Detectives attempted to locate the suspect however, his attorney called indicating that the suspect would not make a statement.

This case will be presented to the District Attorney's Office for a possible charge of mistreating animals, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment not to exceed nine months and and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

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